

Message Text

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12/71

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 RSR-01 /107 W

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R 191228Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3131

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 5069

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA FOUR)

E.O. 11652: DGS

TAGS: PFOR, IR, SA

SUBJECT: IRAN-SAUDI RELATIONS: GULF ISLAND ISSUE

REF: TEHRAN 4970

1. ON INSTRUCTIBNS FROM SHAH, MFA (NADIM) SHOWED US
JULY 18 TEXT OF MESSAGE FROM SHAH TO FAISAL WHICH
CONSTITUTED SHAH'S REPLY TO COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS
ON GULF ISLAND ISSUE WHICH FAISAL HAD RAISED WITH KHALATBARI
DURING LATTER'S RECENT VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA. TEXT OF
SHAH'S MESSAGE, DATED JULY 14, FOLLOWS:

2. QTE ON QUESTION OF ISLANDS IN PERSIAN GULF WE
RECUPERATED THE LAND BELONGING TO US WHICH WAS USURPED
BY THE BRITISH IN THE PAST CENTURY AND WE DID THIS BEFORE
THEY LEFT THE GULF.

3. NO IRANIAN, EVAN A TRAITOR TO HIS COUNTRY, COULD EVER
BE FOUND NOW OR IN THE FUTURE WHO WOULD CEDE AN INCH
OF NATIONAL TERRITORY. THIS IS UNPRECEDENTED IN
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IRANIAN HISTORY AND FOR PEOPLE OF IRAN IT WOULD BE

INTOLERABLE TO ACCEPT SUCH A THING. UNQTE

4. NADIM AGREED THAT THIS WAS HARDNOSED MESSAGE
HARDLY DESIGNED TO ASSUAGE FAISAL'S FEELINGS OR
DISPOSE OF SAUDI-IRANIAN DIFFERENCES OVER GULF. TFPJ
SAID KHALATBARI HAD URGED SHAH TO HAVE MESSAGE CONVEYED
ORALLY SO THAT IT COULD BE COUCHED IN MORE REASONABLE
TERMS BUT SHAH HAD INSISTED ON WRITTEN RESPONSE WHICH
HE PERSONALLY DRAFTED. NADIM FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT
IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA WERE NOW DEAD CENTER ON THIS
ISSUE AND SPECULATED THAT SHAH MIGHT TAKE UP WITH
PRESIDENT GENERAL SUBJECT OF IRAN'S RELATIONS WITH
SAUDI ARABIA.
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